

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

CD NO.

COUNTRY Austria/USFR

DATE DISTR. 8 March 1949

SUBJECT Oil Strike at Matzen, Lower Austria

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X6

SOURCE

25X1X6

1. Rumpel*-drilled well No. 4 at Matzen has struck rich oil. The bearing strata is at 1700 meters on the level above the Flysch (marl) layer and east of the Steinbergbruch. The Soviets are reported to have built a large pump station and a pipe line running to the Nordbahn tracks. The Matzen workers are required to live in the area and are being isolated as much as possible from the Zistersdorf combine.
2. A letter written on or about 23 February 1949 by Vajda, personnel chief of the Zistersdorf-Neusiedl areas, to other Communist personnel directors ordered the immediate reduction of key drilling and administrative personnel to as much as 15% below the minimum operating requirements. As soon as personnel shortages are felt, reemployment is to begin based on a list of approved reliable Austrian Communist Party members. This list, which is soon to be issued, will form the basis for the future employment of all personnel.**

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Comment: The drilling is possibly being done with equipment from G. Rumpel A.G., Vienna.

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Comment: Other sources confirm the general reduction of Sowjetische Mineralverwaltung and Zistersdorf personnel. It is possible that the above letter is part of a general SMV directive to create vacancies for reliable Austrian Communist Party members, but this would indicate a trend away from the long-observed Soviet distrust of Austrian Communist Party efficiency in key SMV and USIA posts.

BY CABLE

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